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A BILL

To increase the efficiency of the cavalry of the Confederate States.

SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact,*
That the Secretary of War, upon the application from the General commanding
an army in the field with which any regiment, battalion, or company of cavalry
is serving, is hereby authorized to cause the quartermaster of the immediate
command to take up on his property return the horses ridden by all of the en-
listed men of such command, and the horses thus taken up shall at once be-
come the property of the Confederate States, and shall be branded with the let-
ter of the company and number and initials of the regiment to which they be-
long. Company commanders shall receipt to the quartermaster for the horses
thus taken up, and each man shall be allowed to retain for use in the service,
the horse that was in his possession when thus taken up; and at any time that
the horses of these men become unfit for service, their places shall be supplied
by others to be furnished by the Government.

SEC. 2. A board of appraisers shall be appointed by the commanding General
of the army to which such regiment, battalion or company is attached, which
shall appraise the horses thus taken; and shall also distinguish them as belong-
ing to classes one, two, three and four, according to quality, and the owner of
the horse shall make his election to receive at once from the quartermaster of
his command, the appraised value of his horse, or a certificate for a horse of the
class to which his belongs, to be furnished him by the Government of the Con-
federate States six months after the ratification of a treaty of peace with the
United States; which certificate shall be approved by the commander of the
brigade to which the man belongs.

SEC. 3. When any enlisted man serving in cavalry becomes dismounted, and
is unable to remount himself, upon the certificate of his immediate commander,
approved by his brigade and army commander, that he has been a gallant and
faithful soldier, and takes proper care of his horse, the quartermaster of his
immediate command shall furnish him a Government horse, suitable for cavalry
service, for which his company commander shall receipt.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of War shall cause the Quartermaster General to make
immediate arrangements for procuring horses, suitable for cavalry, in sufficient
numbers to supply, from time to time, the requirements of the service under
this law. He shall also adopt such regulations for the recruiting of cavalry
horses, the property of the Government, and of cavalrymen who have not the
facilities for recruiting their own horses, as he may deem proper.

SEC. 5. When any cavalryman fails to take proper care of his horse, his bri-
gade or other commander shall report the fact to the General commanding the
army to which he belongs, who shall assign him to some company from his State
or some other arm of the service.

SEC. 6. Any cavalry officer of the Confederate States service, who shall fail
to exact from the men under his command proper care of their horses, may,
upon certificate of the facts by the brigade inspector, approved by the brigade

and division commanders to which he belongs, be, by order of the commanding General, dropped from the rolls and conscribed into the ranks.

SEC. 7. Any infantry soldier who has been, or may hereafter be conspicuously distinguished for his gallantry in battle, may claim a transfer to such cavalry command belonging to the army to which he belongs, as he may select, and in which he can procure an exchange, and he shall be furnished with a Government horse if he desires it.

SEC. 8. The Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, shall, immediately upon the passage of this act, cause steps to be taken to ensure the importation of a full and regular supply of cavalry arms of the most approved patterns, and of such ammunition therefor as cannot be manufactured in the Confederate States, and also of such amount of cavalry equipments as he may deem necessary.

SEC. 9. The Secretary of War, under the direction of the President, shall cause to be prepared and issued to cavalry officers, under such regulations as he may prescribe, the most approved work on cavalry tactics that can be obtained.

SEC. 10. The President shall cause to be established, in connection with the War Department, a bureau of cavalry, which shall, under direction of the Secretary of War, be charged with all matters pertaining to the cavalry service of the Confederate State.

Approved February 23, 1865.

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